



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



Edmond G. Brown Jr
Governor

May 10, 2012

CHDP Information Notice 12-A

TO: CHDP Directors, Deputy Directors, Dental Coordinators, Health Educators, Public Health Nurses including Provider Relations and Foster Care Nurses, and State and Regional Office Staff

SUBJECT: New CHDP Oral Health Provider Training, “Dental Training: Oral Health Assessment and Referral”

A new CHDP provider training, “Dental Training: Oral Health Assessment and Referral” is now available on the CHDP website at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/CHDPDentalTraining.aspx>

This training, developed by the State CHDP Dental Subcommittee, will help providers meet the CHDP dental assessment and referral requirement. It may be particularly useful for provider offices that demonstrate inconsistent recording of dental classifications and referrals. The goal is to assist local program staff to educate providers on how to:

1. Perform an acceptable dental assessment and referral,
2. Assess oral health,
3. Offer preventive oral health services, and
4. Encourage establishment of a *Dental Home*.

The training module is designed for local CHDP program staff to use as 30-45 minute trainings in CHDP provider offices or group settings. References are included from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), First 5 California, other professional organizations, and State/Federal agencies. The following materials are included:

- PowerPoint presentation (with narrative),
- Training materials,
- Links for additional video trainings, printable parent education brochures,
- Guides and tools for providers including new dental periodicity schedule.

Background

Economically and socially disadvantaged children are at highest risk for dental disease. Statewide, only 30.5 percent of Medi-Cal eligible children, ages 0-20, visited a dentist in 2008. A CHDP 2008 PM160 Desk Audit Survey revealed that 75 percent of dental assessments were considered “unacceptable,” which resulted in children not being referred to a dentist.

Components of this training have been pilot tested by members of the State CHDP Dental Subcommittee with health department staff and providers. Trainings were well-received and participant evaluations revealed greater confidence in assessing and making appropriate dental referrals.

Implementation

This training is best used when CHDP program staff train providers and their staff in person. Trainers may use the training in its entirety or in components to accommodate the settings and needs of providers. As an alternative, local programs with limited personnel should encourage and direct providers and their staff to self-train online. Included in the online packet are materials to facilitate in person or online training.

If you have additional questions about this or other oral health related training tools, please contact Gayle Duke, RDH, BS, MS, State CMS Dental Hygienist Consultant at gayle.duke@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Robert Dimand, M.D.

Robert Dimand, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Children's Medical Services